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CIA's now 'a model of openness'

THE CENTRAL Intelligence Agency, which has taken its lumps since Watergate, has gone so far in trying to improve its public image that it now passes out information kits about the super-secret agency to reporters.

That, and a new "openness" about the CIA, have made it a new model of American intelligence, according to Adm. Stansfield Turner, agency director.

Turner, in Chicago Monday to address a meeting of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, said, however, "We must still have secrecy in the intelligence community."

"BUT WE are continuing to review what we can make public, and what can be public will be," he told reporters. His press conference and address, part of a series he is making throughout the country, was designed to convince the people of the CIA's forthrightness.

The information kit included background on the CIA and a report it prepared on the international energy outlook to 1985. The CIA's conclusions were not encouraging for the United States; it reported that oil and gas supplies will increase little outside the OPEC nations.

Turner, who fired 198 employees of the CIA's operations section, effective March 31, said another 700 would be dropped by Oct. 31, 1979, adding that there is "unanimity in the CIA that it is overstaffed."

"I found that my two predecessors had been planning a major reduction in the operation of that section, and I made the decision to go ahead, and I also made additional cuts," he said. "It's never easy to tell someone that his services are not required, but as a taxpayer I cannot condone excess personnel."

THE PRINCIPAL function of the operations section, consisting of 4,000 officers and 4,000 support personnel, is the gathering of intelligence. Turner said a good part of the CIA program is research that is evaluated by the government's decision makers.

He said he is hopeful that Russia will stop the microwave radiation of the U.S. embassy in Moscow that has been going on for years.